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SUBJECT: GAERC: EU FMs ASK SYRIA TO PROMOTE REGIONAL STABILITY, CONDEMN UZBEKISTAN; EU TO MONITOR ACEH AGREEMENT

SUMMARY

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1. EU FM's in the July 18 GAERC urged Israel to exercise maximum self-restraint and the Palestinian Authority to take immediate and effective action against those involved in terrorist attacks. They called on Syria to take action to promote regional stability, including by supporting the legitimate new government of Lebanon and cooperating with the Iraqi authorities to prevent cross-border transit and support for terrorists. The Council condemned the refusal of the Uzbek authorities to allow an independent inquiry into the events in Andijan and agreed to review the EU-Uzbekistan Partnership and Cooperation Agreement following a visit to the region by newly appointed EUSR for Central Asia Jan Kubis. It also tasked its bodies to consider further measures, including the introduction of an arms embargo. The Council hailed the successful conclusion of the Helsinki negotiations on the Aceh region of Indonesia and agreed that the EU was prepared, in principle, to provide observers to monitor implementation of the agreement. The Council reviewed the Commission's negotiations mandate for Turkish accession, but took no position on it, deferring full discussion instead to the informal Gymnich meeting in the beginning of September. Full text of the GAERC conclusions has been sent to EUR/ERA and can be consulted on <http://ue.eu.int>. END SUMMARY.

2. The first GAERC session under the UK Presidency issued conclusions on many hot spots, but essentially debated the Middle East, Iran and Syria/Lebanon. The highlights:

MIDDLE EAST

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3. HR Solana reported on his six-day tour of the Middle East. UK Foreign Secretary/GAERC chair Straw told the final press conference ministers had a good operational discussion on the period between now and four weeks from now when Israeli forces are expected to begin withdrawal from Gaza. Noting that the entire PA government was in Gaza July 18, Solana expressed hope that their efforts to end violence will be successful. Solana urged Hamas to prove that it was complying with the ceasefire with Israel. He also noted that the EU has an operation on the ground for upgrading Palestinian Police with equipment and sophisticated communications gear. Ministers agreed to provide continued support to the Palestinian Civil Police in the form of an ESDP mission, building on the work of the EU Coordination Office for Palestinian Policing Support. External Relations Commissioner Ferrero-Waldner said most important now was not to derail the peace process, calling on all leaders to show "courage and restraint."

SYRIA/LEBANON

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4. Straw said ministers heard an "extremely interesting" report by UNSYG Special Envoy for the implementation of UNSC Resolution 1559 Roed-Larsen. Ministers adopted what Straw presented as "tough" conclusions on Syria's role in Lebanon. The conclusions called on Syria "to take action to promote regional stability, including by supporting the legitimate and sovereign new government of Lebanon and allowing for smooth circulation of goods between the two countries; supporting the political process in Iraq by cooperating with Iraqi authorities to prevent cross-border transit and support for terrorists; and ending support for groups that oppose the MEPP and calling them to abstain from the use of violence." Earlier, French FM Douste-Blazy told the press that a Syrian blockade of the Lebanese border was "not acceptable."

#### IRAN

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15. Straw said the GAERC discussed the Presidential election result, noting that the inauguration of the new President was scheduled to take place on August 3, but offering no further comment. He said he updated colleagues on work toward the presentation by the EU side in August (vice late July, as originally planned before the August 3 inauguration date was set) of a comprehensive package on the three issues covered by the November 2004 Paris agreement: nuclear issues; political and security issues and economic and technological cooperation.

#### INDONESIA/ACEH

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16. Straw, Solana and Ferrero-Waldner all hailed the successful conclusion of the Helsinki negotiations. Solana said the EU received an offer to monitor implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding (200 monitors needed, he said) and announced that he would be visiting Indonesia next week. The GAERC tasked its bodies to continue planning for a mission and to make contact with ASEAN and ASEAN countries with a view to their possible cooperation. Ferrero-Waldner expressed readiness to commit EC funds on top of existing post-Tsunami aid to support the peace process.

#### UZBEKISTAN

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17. The Council condemned the refusal of the Uzbek authorities to allow an independent inquiry into the events in Andijan and agreed to review the EU-Uzbekistan Partnership and Cooperation Agreement following a visit to the region by newly appointed EUSR for Central Asia Jan Kubis. It also tasked its bodies to recommend further measures as appropriate, including the introduction of an arms embargo.

#### ZIMBABWE

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18. Straw referred to the "strong and widespread condemnation" of evictions and internal displacement undertaken under "Operation Murambatsvina" in breach of international standards. He said the Council looked forward to a report from the UN Special Envoy Anna Tibaijuka and supported the decision of the AU to send a Special Envoy.

#### CHINA

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19. The Commission (Ferrero-Waldner and Trade Commissioner Mandelson) presented the agenda for the EU-China Summit, to take place in Beijing on September 5, to include a focus on climate change and energy, according to EU officials. French FM Douste-Blazy told the press that the Summit would allow the EU "to reinforce the strategic partnership with China." Douste-Blazy said it was "regrettable" that the EU has not respected its political commitments re lifting the arms embargo. At the same time, he added, European publics are concerned about trade and textiles, and the EU should be careful to have the support of its populations in dealing with the Chinese. China must also respect its IPR commitments.

#### UN SUMMIT

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110. The GAERC adopted conclusions calling for a "balanced and ambitious" UN summit, listing a series of steps, inter alia, to improve UN development assistance, enhance good governance, make progress on the Doha Development Round and environmental issues. The conclusions do not comment on UN Security Council reform, except to recognize "the need to reform" the main UN bodies.

#### ESTONIA AND LATVIA BORDER AGREEMENTS WITH RUSSIA

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111. The GAERC heard a presentation by the Estonian FM on the Estonia/Russia border agreement in the light of the recent announcement by Russia of its decision not to ratify the agreement. The Latvian minister also spoke on the situation regarding the Latvia/Russia border agreement. At his press conference, Straw said that Estonia and Latvia received support in their endeavors for the treaties

to be satisfactorily ratified by the parties.

DECISIONS WITHOUT DISCUSSION  
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12. This GAERC also approved a number of items without discussion, dealing in particular with:

--Terrorism: conclusions condemning the London attacks as "an affront to everything the EU stands for";

--Sudan/Darfur: the Council adopted a comprehensive supporting action to the AU mission in Sudan (AMIS II) in the civilian and military fields, such as police, planning, logistics, strategic and tactical airlift, training and equipment. The Council appointed former Finnish Minister Pekka Haavisto as EU Special Rep for Sudan;

--Western Balkans: conclusions on Albania (elections, stabilization and association process), Srebrenica commemoration and cooperation with the ICTY;

--Iraq: conclusions welcoming the success of the June 22 Brussels international conference, underlining the EU's commitment to ensure and effective follow-up, and deploring that the campaign of terrorist violence is prolonging the suffering of the Iraqi people and hampering progress and reconstruction in Iraq;

--Central Asia: appointment of former OSCE Secretary-General Jan Kubis as EU Special Rep

SIPDIS  
for Central Asia.

MCKINLEY  
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